E UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Billings-Medel, et al. Group Art Unit: 1642 TECH CENTER 16002900 Serial No.: 09/049,695 Filed: March 27, 1998 Reagents and Methods Useful For For: Detecting Diseases of the **Gastrointestinal Tract** Examiner: R. Canella

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on May 6, 2003, please amend the abovereferenced application as follows: